

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

EB-07 /069 W

----- 044085

R 031025Z JUNE 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4909

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 565

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LT

SUBJECT: RUMORED CHANGES IN LESOTHO GOVERNMENT

1. PERSISTENT RUMORS OF AN IMMINENT RESHUFFLE OF THE LESOTHO CABINET ARE MAKING THE ROUNDS IN LESOTHO. THE SOURCES AND NATURE OF SOME OF THE RUMORS IE, ONE OF THEM IS FROM THE PM'S OFFICE, LEADS EMBASSY TO BELIEVE THEY ARE, AT LEAST IN PART, PROBABLY ACCURATE.

2. ACCORDING TO RUMORS, THE PROJECTED CHANGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, JOEL M. MOITSE, WILL BE MOVED TO NEW YORK AS PERMREP TO UN, TO BE ACCREDITED ALSO TO OTTAWA.

B. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, KHETLA T. J. RAKHETLA WILL BE MOVED, PERHAPS TO COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, PERHAPS TO AN OVERSEAS DIPLOMATIC POST.

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C. FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE PEETE PEETE, WHO WAS FORCED OUT OF THE CABINET LAST YEAR, WILL BE GIVEN AN UNSPECIFIED MINISTRY.

D. A NEW MINISTRY WILL BE CREATED, PROBABLY BY SPLITTING THE FUNCTIONS NOW UNDER MINISTRY OF WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

E. CHIEF MASUPHA KATISO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE BNP, WILL BE GIVEN A MINISTRY.

F. SOME UNSPECIFIED CHANGE WILL BE MADE IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. POINTS 2 A, C, AND D ABOVE STRIKE EMBASSY AS THE MORE CREDIBLE.

4. THESE CHANGES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE ANNOUNCED JUNE 10 OR 16. EMBASSY WILL COMMENT ON ACTUAL CHANGES WHEN AND IF THEY TAKE PLACE. HAUGHT

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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